BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABORATORY

2006 Brookhaven National Laboratory Elementary School Science Fair Rules

1. The Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) Elementary School Science Fair is open to students in grades K-6 representing schools throughout Suffolk County. The Fair will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2006**. Entrants or their representatives must bring their projects to BNL between 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. on the day of the Fair.

2. Only one project per grade level per school may be entered. However, if a school has 200 to 399 students enrolled at one grade level, two projects may be entered; if a school has over 400 students enrolled at one grade level, three projects may be entered at that grade level.

3. Projects from grades 4, 5, and 6 must be the work of individual students. Projects from grades K, 1, 2, and 3 may be the result of efforts of individual students or teams of students. All students entering a group project must be on the same grade level, and the group size is limited to one class. AM and PM kindergarten sessions taught by one teacher may be considered as one class. The project must clearly reflect the students' own efforts. If adult support is given, it should be acknowledged on the display.

4. The School Contact Person will submit names of entrants chosen to represent their school. This should be done by accessing our on-line registration form (www.bnl.gov/scied/museum). This form must be submitted to BNL no later than **April 28, 2006**. **Late entries cannot be accepted**. Each registered entrant will receive a registration number, a summary of project form, and an informational letter. These letters will be sent to the designated School Contact Person who will be responsible for their distribution to the students involved.

5. Project Requirements

   - All projects must be durable and safe. Moveable parts must be firmly attached.

   - BNL will not provide facilities or outlets for electricity, running water, drainage, gas or compressed air. Dangerous chemicals, open flames and explosives may not be exhibited.

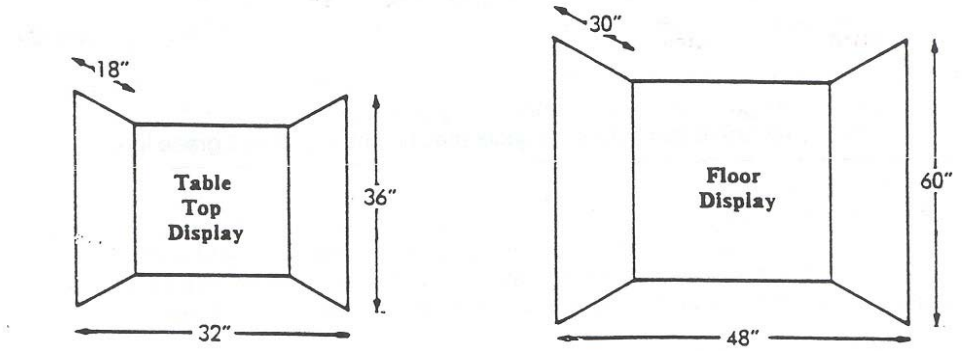
   - **Live animals may be a part of your experiment but may not be harmed in any way. Live animals cannot be exhibited at the BNL Science Fair, but photographs are acceptable.**

- Any project deemed to be unsafe or inhumane in any way will not be displayed at the BNL Science Fair and will not be judged.

- **Projects must follow the scientific method.**

- Tabletop projects must be no larger than 18 inches deep (front to back) by 32 inches wide (side to side) and no higher than 3 feet above the top surface of the table. Floor displays must be no larger than 30 inches deep (front to back) by 48 inches wide (side to side) and no higher than 5 feet. Both tabletop and floor displays must be freestanding and stable, because no backing or rear display board of any kind will be provided. It is suggested, but not required, that entrants construct displays like a miniature stage with three sides.

Examples of project size and format:



- **Neither the exhibitor's name nor the name of the school shall appear on the project before or during the judging. However, photographs of the exhibitor may be part of the project providing that there is nothing in the photo that can identify the school.**

- **By participating in the BNL Fair, parents agree that photos may be taken of their child and utilized for such purposes as BNL, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate for publicizing the Fair and its results.**

- **Each project must include a completed Summary of Project form prominently displayed with the project. This form is included in this packet (registration numbers will be assigned after the school submits their entrants' information). This form must be signed by a school official (teacher, principal, or science coordinator) who will interview the student and certify that the student completed the work and understands their project.**

6. Students will not be present during judging. Any project having moving parts must either run continuously or have a "start" mechanism that can be easily activated by a judge.

7. Please see the Judges' Rubric for criteria that will be used in judging the projects. The scientific method is a pattern of inquiry that forms a structure for advancing scientific understanding. The process: identify a problem, form a hypothesis, design and conduct an experiment, collect data, analyze results, and form a conclusion. Scientists, using this approach, have answered questions ranging from the simplest to the most complex.

8. Exhibitors or their representatives are responsible for setting up and removing their displays on the day of the Fair. BNL is not responsible for any projects not collected upon completion of the ceremonies on the day of the Fair.

Any project that does not meet these requirements will not be considered for awards.

All decisions of the judges are final.